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Human Rights Developments

[REDACTED]

Chile is losing its patience with continuing efforts in world forums to censure it for human rights violations. Chilean officials are particularly upset because, in spite of what they regard as considerable progress in human rights during the past year, alleged Chilean violations are the subject of a resolution soon to be introduced in the UN General Assembly, as well as a recent report issued by the UN Human Rights Commission.

Perhaps partly out of pique, Chile took two actions last week that appear calculated to elicit protests from human rights advocates:

- President Pinochet announced in a speech to organized labor that seven union leaders would be sent into enforced internal exile for participating in political meetings, which have been banned since 1973.
- Authorities denied reentry to three Chilean women who had just returned from a trip abroad to seek assistance in locating missing relatives believed to be in the hands of government security agents.

The [REDACTED] some danger exists of a resurgence of the siege mentality that characterized the Chilean Government in 1975 and 1976. Should the government become convinced that world opinion will be against it regardless of the measures it takes, slower progress in human rights, and perhaps even some recidivism, can be expected. One indication of the way Chile will go could be the continuation of the state of siege next month. [REDACTED] President Pinochet and other members of the junta agreed to end the state of siege on 11 December.

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The Uruguayan Council of State has approved a law effective ON 1 January transferring pardon authority from the judiciary to the executive. we still have no information on how the executive intends to use this power, but there are rumors in Montevideo that there may soon be a massive, well-publicized amnesty for political prisoners that would be designed to show a marked improvement in the government's performance in human rights. There is also a [REDACTED] that the repressive activities of the Organization for the Coordination of Anti-Subversive Activities (OCA) will be severely limited by the government. Many members of OCA [REDACTED] believe their organization will be disbanded in February.

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The Paraguayan Government [REDACTED] has decided to put into motion a proposal by Interior Minister Montanaro to release those political prisoners who are not being detained under judicial order before the end of the year. The releases would be in anticipation of the visit of the Inter-American Human Rights Commission. The first six prisoners supposedly affected by this decision were released on 23 November after the Bishop of Coronel Oviedo intervened on their behalf during a meeting with President Stroessner. The prisoners had been detained between February and November 1976. [REDACTED] complicating factors are ever present in Paraguay, and the proposal may never get off the ground.

Argentine Foreign Ministry Press Secretary, Roberto Perez Froio, only hours after the departure of Secretary of State Vance, called [REDACTED] to accuse correspondents Karen DeYoung of *The Washington Post* and Juan de Onis of *The New York Times* of attempting to disrupt US-Argentine relations. Perez Froio said that the military has "concrete evidence of Onis' links with leftist guerrillas." [REDACTED] A BBC correspondent were detained for seven hours on 2 November when they were interviewing some human rights demonstrators. They were not mistreated and were released.

[REDACTED] reports of recent remarks by a senior Haitian OFFICIAL that his country's present human rights policy is "designed to pull the wool over the Americans' eyes" are not accurate. [REDACTED] both President Duvalier's efforts in the human rights field--even though limited by the President's perception of the concern--and his emphasis on liberalization and modernization demonstrate a commitment to progress that contradicts the official's cynical view. [REDACTED]

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